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The present application is a 35 U.S.C. § 371 national phase application from, and which claims priority to, international application PCT/US97/06891, filed April 18, 1997, which claims priority to U.S. provisional patent application Serial No. 60/015,644, filed April 19, 1996, which applications are hereby incorporated herein in their entirety.

Please add the following abstract:

Abstract has to be submitted on a separate sheet of paper
-- Antigenically reactive regions of the Hepatitis A virus polyprotein are provided. These antigenically reactive regions, and polypeptides and proteins comprising these antigenically reactive regions, provide a sensitive and specific immunological hepatitis A virus detection assay. The specific use of regions derived from the nonstructural regions of the polypeptide provides the basis for determining immunity derived from prior or present infection by the Hepatitis A virus and allows one to distinguish between an immunological response derived from infection and that derived from immunization. --

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

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70. (Amended) An isolated, antigenically reactive hepatitis A virus (HAV) peptide, the antigenically reactive peptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is substantially similar to a portion of an HAV protein selected from the group consisting of the VP3 protein of HAV corresponding to amino